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The Original "Recall"

THE Associated Press, which rarely is excited or inaccurate, tells us that Congressmen are hearing from their constituents in an uncertain terms about the desirability of returning home and giving the country a rest.

There is no question that people are writing their Representatives and Senators and urging them to wind up business in Washington, that the interminable legislative grind may cease to have its unsettling effect on industry generally. For approximately eighteen months Congress has been on the job. Considering that Taft was addressed to the extra session last, and that Roosevelt was liberal at prolonged sessions, we find that the country has had for those three administrations a plethora of Congress, with a plethora of agitation, all of which kept business on the griddle.

The nation has awakened to the facts. What Congress now hears from its constituents is virtually a recall, not the bogus sort advocated by the Colonel, but a genuine and a heart-felt and an exacting one from the country.

This is not to say that Congress should not conclude the legislative program, as laid down by the President. It would be calamitous, politically and economically, not to do so. But if this message from the country means anything, it means to cut out delay, to cease palavering, enact the bills that are pending, go home and give industry a chance to readjust it.

Pensioning Mothers

THE suggestion that mothers should be pensioned at a Federal source is ill-advised and premature. That is the position taken by Miss Julia Lathrop, head of the Children's Bureau of the Department of Labor, and she is entirely correct.

The State is the unit that should initiate and maintain this particular activity. Twenty-one of the States already are pensioning mothers, or maintaining some eodemous system that approximates pensions. But the nation should not be called upon to undertake a burden that could easily mount up into the hundreds of millions annually.

We all know how the Federal pension list has swollen. We know how much graft, chiefly political, there is in it. There is every reason to believe that once the sluice gates were opened, the matter of mothers' pensions, the "pink barrel" rivers and harbors bills would be made to look cheap by side of this new and convenient method for garnering votes.

The principle of mothers' pensions is sound, if administered righteously. Children are much more apt to thrive if kept in the domestic atmosphere than if placed in an institution, save, of course, where the mother is incorrigible. The child's individuality is preserved, and there is less of that pauperizing influence and atmosphere that pertains to institutional work.

But the State and not the nation must undertake the work, at least at this stage of our political and moral progress. When our Federal machinery for disbursing funds and safeguarding the public treasury is better matured, it may be time to talk of pensioning mothers out of the central treasury. But so long as wide opportunities exist for abuses, and distortion of the intent of such legislation, the innovation can better be managed by the individual State.

Marriages Decrease in Wisconsin

THE fact, announced from the Wisconsin State capital, that fewer marriages have been celebrated in that State during the first five months of this year than during the corresponding period of 1913, may or may not be due to the operation of the so-called eugenic law, under which a medical certificate is a necessary preliminary to an entrance into the blessed state of matrimony.

The Wisconsin officials themselves hint that the decrease may be due to numbers of couples going across the border into neighboring States to have their knots tied. This has been the effect wherever one State adopts more string at marriage laws than its neighbors, and doubtless has been the case in Wisconsin.

But even if the eugenic law has prevented some weddings, is not that just what it was intended to do? These conscious of medical fitness have probably been very glad to get married in Wisconsin, for the fact that they could get a license in that State in a measure protected them to be sound physically, a distinction not degradable to masculine pride, and probably not unwelcome to the feminine mind either.

What effect, if any, the Wisconsin law is to have on the breed of human beings is a matter for the rather remote future to disclose, and it is not at all impossible that no scientific conclusions of value will result. So many causes are combining to produce better babies that credit might be given to the eugenic law, which, in fact, might be due to better food and more sanitary housing.

They That Pay

THROUGHOUT the dispatches from the several European capitals affected by the recent developments on that Continent runs the significant clause, "the masses crushed by taxation originating in past and prospective wars." Simultaneously come reports of

that seeming anomaly, which can only be explained in contradictory terms, "peace riots." The one rift in the clouds overhanging Europe, threatening to break and overwhelm almost the entire world, are just these "peace riots." They show that the "masses crushed by taxation" know why they are crushed, and are evincing a disposition to rebel and destroy the cause, which is wars—wars of the past and wars that may never come. Not only is this disposition the one ray of light piercing the blackness of the present situation, but it is the one thing that is going to cure war in the long run. The heads of the chancelleries, the Emperors, the Kings, the petty paper-mache rulers of principalities do not suffer, save in the loss of selfish prestige. The masses do suffer; they pay the freight.

The peasant out in the fields pays, in loss of his own life or that of his sons. The peasant woman, bread-bosomed, thrifty, who has raised her sons with infinite pains and infinite labor and at infinite sacrifice—she pays. The peasant girl, betrothed, her dowry stashed by hard economy, waiting for the lover that never returns—she pays.

And they who do not go to the front, they pay also. They pay in living made higher and harder, in work more arduous because there are fewer to do it. They pay in the ghastly inheritance of feuds, each of them so much potential tragedy, each of them so much potential organized murder.

Under the regime of so-called "armed peace," the burden is almost as great as that of war. The food supply of the middle class must be impoverished, to pay taxes. Education must be abbreviated, that more soldiers may go into the field, or be held ready for service. Industry must flag, intellectual progress mark time—all as a tribute to the destructive god of war, for whose pagan arbitrations Christian civilization has yet found no substitute.

It is little wonder that the spirit of universal peace makes headway. The men, the women and the children, all that pay—they are in protest.

Destroys a Source of Corruption

THOUGH not official, the opinion of the Attorney-General of Virginia, that the State Democratic Committee was within the law in its ruling that only white Democrats can participate in a Democratic primary, puts the seal of authority upon that ruling. It leaves no room for doubt or excuse for evasion now.

That opinion should make impossible in the future the voting of any negro, in any community, under any pretext in any Democratic primary. It should remove the menace of the injection of the negro problem into our primaries, as that menace has already been removed from general elections after much labor and the expenditure of much money. It should utterly destroy one source of corruption in the conduct of Democratic primaries. It should take from crooked politicians of whatever party or whatever faction of a party a weapon which all too easily may be used corruptly to defeat the will of the majority of the party.

The wisdom of the ruling of the Democratic committee cannot be questioned. It is the veriest hypocrisy to deny that when negroes vote in a Democratic primary the majority of those votes are corrupt, or at the very least are improperly influenced. Negroes are not Democrats, and the color of the voter's skin, if black, is satisfactory evidence that other than Democrats are taking part in a Democratic primary. Except in rare instances—as in municipal primaries, in which party questions do not enter—honest negroes do not attempt to vote in Democratic primaries, and in those instances only in small numbers. That negroes should participate in any numbers is almost certain proof of fraud. As it is manifestly impossible to separate the honest from the fraudulent, it is necessary to ban all.

It took some time to make the State Committee see this, but it has seen it and has ruled that only white Democrats shall take part in a Democratic primary. That ruling has been more honored in the breach than in the observance. It has been wilfully disregarded by some election judges, and not always for motives above suspicion. Now comes the opinion of Attorney-General Pollard that the committee's ruling is within the law. That opinion is not official, but it tells what will be the Attorney-General's official opinion should the question ever be put up to him officially, and it warns what will be his attitude should he ever be called upon to prosecute in the courts those who violate the committee ruling. It should have its effect, and, we believe, will.

The Fall Congressional Elections

FEARS are expressed in some quarters that the Democratic strength in the House of Representatives may be appreciably lessened by this fall's elections. While gains are anticipated in the wheat States, the manufacturing sections of the East are considered doubtful.

While all things are possible, and while congressional elections frequently go against the administration in nonpresidential years, the probabilities are that the Democratic majority will not be seriously, if at all, impaired next November.

By that time calamity howling should be only a memory, the huge crops will have been harvested, and the country's great basic industries should be going at full blast. One need not be over-optimistic to believe that in a few months the Mexican situation will be well on the way to a permanent and satisfactory settlement. In short, it appears to us that the Wilson administration will have vindicated itself in the public mind by election day, and that the voters will return a substantial vote of confidence.

Regarded as a whole, the Democratic party is united in its support of a great President. The organization is sound and active and the factional lights are not unduly serious, nor are they likely to prevent a solid front being offered to the enemy, who is more vociferous than united.

On the whole, there does not seem to be any solid reason for fearing any disastrous reverses this year.

Georgia paper complains that it was short on news "because the gas failed us." That never happens to the Hearst papers, more is the pity.

Queen Mary can tell the Cabinet that George doesn't know a blessed thing about home rule.

The curious thing is that the unwritten law is always enforced on unarmed defendants.

Our idea of a lifetime job is that of a peace advocate in the Balkans.

WAYSIDE CHATS WITH OLD VIRGINIA EDITORS

"Right," says the Newport News Times-Herald, courageously owning up to taking liberties with Congress. "The last word is 'scorned.' How did you know?" The same way those other critics know when they point out mistakes. Yes, we have a copy right on our desk.

"Start your children right by seeing that they attend school from the beginning to the end of the term," says the Sandy Valley News. And if you have no children, do your part by voting to lengthen the term.

"The fact that a general European war would make better times in the United States," says the Petersburg Index-Appeal, "will not make humane Americans any sadder, nor will it make them any better. It will make them more European." Especially as the better times would be preceded by widespread financial depression in this country, as well as in Europe. We would have to pay for the good times and pay heavily for months, if not for years, before we reaped them. Moreover, with Europe impoverished, immigration to this country of better business and opportunity would be so greatly increased that we would have to share it with many that we would not have such a great part in it ourselves.

Speaking of the report that Hugh A. White, of Rockbridge, and Aubrey E. Strode, of Amherst, were considering the advisability of being independent candidates for Congress against Hal Flood, the Clifton Forge Review expresses the belief that neither will make any such move. It is a safe guess. White and Strode both oppose Flood, but they are Democrats, and when they declined to run in the Democratic primary against him, chance of active opposition passed.

"Howled before they were hit," says the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot of the calamity howlers, of course! That's what a calamity howler is for. He is never hit, for usually he has nothing to lose. He is merely a partisan politician out of a job.

They have raised the price of a shave in Staunton, and according to the Leader of that city, it has caused a greater stir than the making of a new law for the city. But they are not blaming that on "Hal," are they?

At the risk of bringing down upon us more gibes, we are going to point out that the Lynchburg Advance and the Times-Dispatch both, on the same day, described the talk of the Washington Post about "nobler Americanism" and "impudence." That is not a matter of "great minds running in the same channel." It is not even a coincidence. It merely means that one with any sense at all could see anything else to that Post effusion but monumental impudence. So everybody who commented upon it naturally called it that.

THE PUBLIC PULSE

Editorial Expressions From Leading Newspapers

If a Balkan War Comes.

Such a war as some fear may follow this dispute between Austria and Serbia would be a world-wide calamity, but in the end it would strengthen immeasurably the relative position of the United States, and if Congress rose to the occasion in a statesmanlike way, it might restore to this country its pre-eminence as a maritime nation which was lost when American ship owners were forced to sell their vessels to foreigners during the Civil War. It is not to the United States, and if Congress rose to the occasion in a statesmanlike way, it might restore to this country its pre-eminence as a maritime nation which was lost when American ship owners were forced to sell their vessels to foreigners during the Civil War. It is not to the United States, and if Congress rose to the occasion in a statesmanlike way, it might restore to this country its pre-eminence as a maritime nation which was lost when American ship owners were forced to sell their vessels to foreigners during the Civil War. 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